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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/224,211 12/30/98 WASSOM

J 06975/033001

EXAMINER

TM02/1022

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MATLJ, T
ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173
DATE MAILED:

10/22/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/224,211

Applicant(s)
Jack Wassom et al.

Examiner
Tadesse Hallu

Art Unit
2173



– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 9, 2001
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-19, 24-30, 32-47, and 52-60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-19, 24-30, 32-47, and 52-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to an RCE entered on 8/9/2001

Status of the claims

2. Claims 3, 20-23, 31, 48-51 have been canceled, and claims 1, 2, 4-19, 24-30, 32-47, and 52-60 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1, 2, 4-19, 24-30, 32-47, 52-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carpenter et al. (WO 97/34388) and Burge et al (6,014,638)**

Carpenter et al. ("Carpenter") relates to user interface, wherein there is a system and method defining themes or graphical objects based on a common user interface for interacting with a computer information service.

Burge et al. ("Burge") relates to a system and method for customizing on-line service content and content presentation for individual computer users.

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Per claims 1, 28 and 29:

once a user is identified as a kid or parent grouping, the system of Carpenter automatically provides a set of user interface controls corresponding to the identified grouping (see Fig. 1B), also, Carpenter's user interface does disclose a Main Menu screen (topics/action screen) as shown in Figs. 1B.

Carpenter does not explicitly disclose accessing user information in a database based on the user identifier, instead Carpenter determines or receives identification of a user based on a user "*Who Are You*" screen selection, as a "*kid*" or as a "*parent*."

However, Burge discloses a *user profile database* 18, so it may be used in determining the characteristic of display presented to the user (col 7, lines 1-col 8, lines 20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate Burge's *user profile database* in place of "*Who Are You*" screen of Carpenter because knowing a user profile or identity will help to monitor and to provide the associated set of controls to the said user. Burge further discloses that the functions of data collection and display customization are performed automatically by the electronic shopping system (see Abstract). Moreover, Carpenter and Burge further discloses automatically associating a grouping with the *user profile* by selecting grouping a "*kid*" or a "*parent*" among the two groups (kid, parent) based on the user profile (see Carpenter: Fig. 1B).

Per claims 2 and 30:

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Carpenter and Burge further disclose that displaying the set of controls or options under each theme, such as topics/action options (Main Menu) (see Carpenter: page 6, lines 7-23, & Fig. 1A-C).

Per claims 4 and 32:

Carpenter and Burge further disclose that the user interface controls include a configurable button (see Carpenter: page 6, lines 1-6, & Fig. 1A-C).

Per claims 5 and 33:

Carpenter and Burge further disclose that the user interface includes a pull-down menu control (see Carpenter: Fig. 1B).

Per claims 6 and 34:

Carpenter and Burge further disclose a customized control interface wherein the controls may be configured differently for a different theme (Carpenter: page 3, line 17-page 4, line 8, page 7, lines 1-19, page 11, lines 1-9).

Per claims 7-10, 35-38:

Carpenter and Burge further discloses determining display characteristics and customizing display elements such as modifying user interface control (see Burge: col 8, lines 21-col 10, lines 67).

Per claims 11-13 and 39-41:

Carpenter and Burge further disclose a specific demographic group such as adults, kids, or teens (see Carpenter: page 5, lines 3-8, Page 8, lines 1-6).

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Per claims 14 and 42:

Carpenter and Burge further disclose that controlling content in a number of ways such as access control via inclusion/exclusion of content pointers from various menus for a specific demographic group (Carpenter: page 17, lines 11-22).

Per claims 15-17 and 43-45:

Carpenter and Burge further discloses that information service system further provides e-mail, network browsing and chat services (see Carpenter: page 16, lines 20-page 17, lines 10, Figs 1A-C, and Fig. 4).

Per claims 18, 19 and 46, 47:

Carpenter and Burge further disclose receiving user information via a network connection and based on the received user information content determining the group (Carpenter: Fig. 4, page 16, lines 20-page 17, lines 22).

Per claims 24-26 and 52-54:

Carpenter and Burge further disclose a Login Screen to identify a user and associating such user to a group of users such as demographic group such as adults, kids, or teens. Selection of one of these groups is also shown. Carpenter and Burge further disclose the grouping identification user characteristic such as age, and each group has identifying services user permitted to access (see Carpenter: Fig. 1A-C, pages 6, lines 7-page 8, line 14, 19, page 9, lines 3-13).

Per claims 27 and 55:

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Carpenter and Burge further provide receiving information from a remote site describing the set of user interface controls (Carpenter: Fig. 4, page 16, line 20-page 17, line 23).

Per claims 56 and 57:

Carpenter and Burge disclose that the user maturity includes age (demographic group such as adults, kids, or teens) (Carpenter: page 5, lines 3-8, page 8, lines 2-6).

Per claims 58-60:

Carpenter and Burge disclose associating a group with a user profile (such as a kid or parent) (Carpenter: page 6, lines 7-page 8, lines 14, page 9, lines 3-13).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to independent claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to *Tadesse Hailu*, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2799. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 - 7:30 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, *John Cabeca*, can be reached at (703) 308-

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7. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Tadesse Hailu 10/15/2001


RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173